United Nations E/RES/2016/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2016

[on the recommendation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2016/15/Add.1)]

2016/13. Venue of the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Cuba to host the thirty-seventh session of the Commission,

1. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of the invitation of the Government of Cuba;

2. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-seventh session in Cuba in the first half of 2018.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

16-13383 (E)

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United Nations E/RES/2016/14

Economic and Social Council

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18 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 25 July 2016

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.22)*]

2016/14. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 70/1 of 25 September 2015, 70/89 of 9 December 2015 and 70/225 of 22 December 2015,

Recalling also its resolution 2015/17 of 20 July 2015,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including resolutions ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Taking note of the report by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan, as transmitted by the Secretary-General,[1]

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] and the

[1] A/71/86-E/2016/13.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4] and affirming that these human rights instruments are applicable and must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Taking note, in this regard, of Palestine's accession to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law conventions as well as other international treaties,

Taking note also of General Assembly resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2012,

Stressing the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement on all tracks on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in that regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, and Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, particularly as a result of settlement activities, which are illegal under international law and which, deplorably, continued during the reporting period,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Expressing alarm, in this regard, about the extremely high levels of unemployment in the Gaza Strip in particular, which according to World Bank estimates is 43 per cent, with youth unemployment reaching 60 per cent, exacerbated by the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, and the continuing negative repercussions of the military operations in the Gaza Strip on economic and social infrastructure and living conditions,

Commending, despite the many constraints, including the obstacles imposed by the ongoing Israeli occupation, the efforts of the Palestinian Government to improve the economic and social situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the areas of governance, the rule of law and human rights, livelihoods and productive sectors, education and culture, health, social protection, infrastructure and water,

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which was launched on 15 August 2013, and which aims, inter alia, at enhancing development support and assistance to the Palestinian people and strengthening institutional capacity in line with Palestinian national priorities,

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[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[5] A/56/1026-S/2002/932, annex II, resolution 14/221.

[6] S/2003/529, annex.

Gravely concerned about the accelerated construction of settlements and implementation of other related measures by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing that such illegal measures are main sources of other Israeli violations and discriminatory policies,

Encouraging all States and international organizations to continue to actively pursue policies to ensure respect for their obligations under international law with regard to all illegal Israeli practices and measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly Israeli settlements,

Taking note of the report of the independent international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,[7]

Expressing deep concern about the rising incidence of violence, harassment, provocation, vandalism and incitement in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular by illegal armed Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including children, and their properties, including homes, historic and religious sites and agricultural lands, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the rights to work, to health, to education, to property, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom of access and movement,

Recalling, in that regard, the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,[8] and General Assembly resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Deploring all loss of innocent civilian life and injury to scores of civilians, and calling upon all parties to fully respect international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including for the protection of civilian life, as well as for the promotion of human security, the de-escalation of the situation, the exercise of restraint, including from provocative actions and rhetoric, and the establishment of a stable environment conducive to the pursuit of peace,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, including the increased demolition of homes, economic institutions, historical landmarks, agricultural lands and orchards, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in particular in connection with its construction of settlements and the wall and confiscation of land, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

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[7] A/HRC/22/63.

[8] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

Expressing grave concern also over the continuing forced displacement and dispossession of Palestinian civilians, including the Bedouin community, due to the continuing and intensifying policy of home demolitions, evictions and revocation of residency rights in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as measures to further isolate the city from its natural Palestinian environs, which have seriously exacerbated the already critical socioeconomic situation being faced by the Palestinian population,

Expressing grave concern further about ongoing Israeli military operations and policies of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socioeconomic situation of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestine refugee population, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis,

Expressing grave concern, in particular, over the continuing crisis in the Gaza Strip as a result of the prolonged Israeli closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade, stressing that the situation is unsustainable, and calling in that regard for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009) of 8 January 2009 with a view to ensuring the full opening of the border crossings for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian aid, commercial flows and construction materials, and emphasizing the need for security for all civilian populations,

Deploring the conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, women and the elderly, as well as the widespread destruction of or damage to thousands of homes and vital civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in this regard,

Gravely concerned about the consequent prolonged and extensive negative impact of the military operations of July and August 2014, as well as the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009 and of November 2012, on economic conditions, the provision of social services and the social, humanitarian and physical living conditions of the Palestinian civilian population, including the Palestine refugee population,

Recalling, in that regard, the relevant United Nations reports, including those of the Economic and Social Council, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Human Rights Council,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the hampering of the reconstruction process, by Israel, the occupying Power, on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, where the humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, and calling in that regard for the immediate acceleration of the reconstruction process in the Gaza Strip with the assistance of the donor countries, including the disbursement of funds pledged at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, held on 12 October 2014,

Gravely concerned about various reports of the United Nations and specialized agencies regarding the substantial aid dependency caused by prolonged border closures, inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the deaths and injuries caused to civilians, including children, women and peaceful demonstrators, and emphasizing that the Palestinian civilian population must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women, continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, excessive use of administrative detention, including of children, lack of proper medical care and widespread medical neglect, including for ill prisoners, with the risk of fatal consequences, and denial of family visits and of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about any ill-treatment and harassment of Palestinian prisoners and detainees and all reports of torture, while taking note of the May 2012 agreement reached on conditions of detention in Israeli prisons and calling for its full and immediate implementation,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people, including by ensuring the unimpeded provision of humanitarian assistance and the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods into and out of the Gaza Strip,

Recognizing the efforts by the Palestinian Government, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance, emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure and commending in this regard the ongoing efforts to develop the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, including through the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan on governance, economy, social development and infrastructure (2014–2016), and the significant achievements made, as confirmed by the positive assessments made by international institutions regarding readiness for statehood, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for the Coordination of the International Assistance to Palestinians, while also expressing concern about the negative impact of the current instability and financial crisis being faced by the Palestinian Government,

Commending, in that regard, the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people in line with their national development and State-building plan, as well as the vital assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Affirming the need to support the Palestinian Government of national consensus in its assumption of full government responsibilities in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in all fields, as well as through its presence at Gaza's

crossing points, and Palestinian national reconciliation, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling upon both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet,

Aware that development and fostering healthy economic and social conditions are difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

1. *Calls for* the full opening of the border crossings of the Gaza Strip, in line with Security Council resolution 1860 (2009), to ensure humanitarian access as well as the sustained and regular flow of persons and goods and the lifting of all movement restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those restrictions arising from ongoing Israeli military operations and the multilayered closure system, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the serious humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which is dire in the Gaza Strip, and calls for compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with all of its legal obligations under international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions in that regard;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the territorial contiguity, unity and integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Also stresses* the need to preserve and develop Palestinian national institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights, including economic and social rights;

4. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[9]

5. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

6. *Reiterates the call* for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of all crossings into the Gaza Strip, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including construction materials and adequate fuel supplies, as well as to ensuring the unhindered access of the United Nations and related agencies and regular commercial flows necessary for economic recovery to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and emphasizes the need for security for all civilian populations;

7. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population, in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[2]

[9] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

8. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to prevent Israeli settlers from perpetrating such illegal activities;

10. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to end immediately its exploitation of natural resources, including water and mining resources, and to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water, land and energy resources, and present a serious environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and also calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, to remove all obstacles that obstruct the implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plants in the Gaza Strip, notably the provision of the electric power needed for the work of the northern Gaza emergency sewage treatment plant, and stresses in this regard the urgency of the reconstruction and development of water infrastructure, including the desalination facility project for the Gaza Strip;

11. *Calls for* the assistance necessary for the safe removal of all unexploded ordnance in the Gaza Strip, which endangers Palestinian lives and has a negative impact on the environment as well as reconstruction and development efforts, welcomes the efforts exerted by the Mine Action Service of the United Nations to date, and urges support for the efforts of the Service in this regard;

12. *Reaffirms* that the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development and to the achievement of peace, and calls for the full cessation of all settlement and settlement-related activity, including full cessation of all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, legal status and character of the occupied territories, including in particular in and around occupied East Jerusalem, in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and international law, including the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War;

13. *Calls for* accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and recalls in this regard Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994 and stresses the need for its implementation;

14. *Also calls for* urgent attention to the plight and the rights, in accordance with international law, of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in Israeli prisons, and calls for efforts between the two sides for the further release of prisoners and detainees;

15. *Reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and in that regard calls for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice[8] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

16. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and to facilitate visits of the Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaytirah entrance;

17. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

18. *Expresses appreciation* to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide economic and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, which has helped to ameliorate their critical economic and social conditions, and urges the continued provision of assistance commensurate with increased socioeconomic and humanitarian needs, in cooperation with official Palestinian institutions and consistent with the Palestinian National Development Plan;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of and need for increased and renewed international efforts on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1544 (2004) and 1850 (2008), and the Madrid Conference, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative[5] and the Quartet road map,[6] as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in order to pave the way for the realization of the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders, and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

21. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its 2017 session.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 11 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.21)*]

2016/15. Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2] adopted by the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011, and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the Comprehensive High-level Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, held in Antalya, Turkey, from 27 to 29 May 2016, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/294 of 25 July 2016, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Declaration,

Recalling also its resolution 2015/35 of 23 July 2015 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/216 of 22 December 2015,

Noting the theme of its high-level segment of 2016, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results",

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020;[3]

2. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action[2] in its eight priority areas, namely, (*a*) productive capacity, (*b*) agriculture, food security and rural development, (*c*) trade, (*d*) commodities, (*e*) human and social development, (*f*) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (*g*) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (*h*) good governance at all levels;

3. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

4. *Decides* to discuss, at its next annual forum on financing for development follow-up, adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries, pursuant to the relevant resolutions on the matter, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the mandate of the annual forum on financing for development follow-up set out therein, and recalls that the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the forum will be fed into the overall follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] in the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

5. *Recalls* General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and underscores that the efforts of the least developed countries towards graduation are underpinned by their ownership and leadership, as the primary responsibility for development lies with the countries themselves, but they need to be supported by concrete and substantial international partnership measures in a spirit of mutual accountability for development results;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the reviews by the Committee for Development Policy of the graduation criteria for the least developed countries, and recommends that the reviews be comprehensive, taking into account all aspects of the evolving international development context, including relevant agendas;

7. *Reiterates* that treating the least developed countries as a group on the basis of their low per capita income, human asset development and economic vulnerability remains the fundamental premise for special measures in their favour, and that wider recognition of least developed country status could stimulate and facilitate better integration of the Istanbul Programme of Action into development policies, and invites the Committee for Development Policy to look into the reasons for and consequences of the non-application of the least developed country category by some United Nations development system organizations and to include its findings on this matter in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council;

[3] A/71/66-E/2016/11.

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

8. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

9. *Welcomes* the fact that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 [6] underscore that the most vulnerable countries, including the least developed countries, deserve special attention and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the least developed countries, recalls the decision contained in the 2030 Agenda that effective linkages will be made with the follow-up and review arrangements of all relevant United Nations conferences and processes, including on the least developed countries, underlines the importance of strong synergy in the implementation of the recently adopted agendas and the Istanbul Programme of Action at the national and subnational levels, and encourages coordination and coherence in the follow-up of their implementation;

10. *Underlines* the need to give particular attention to the issues and concerns of the least developed countries in all major United Nations conferences and processes;

11. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include the issues of concern to the least developed countries in all relevant reports in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, in order to support the implementation of the goals set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 2017, under the sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020" of the item entitled "Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits", a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action.

46th plenary meeting
26 July 2016

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[5] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

United Nations E/RES/2016/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 19 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2016/30)*]

2016/16. Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, in which it stipulated the guidelines in accordance with which, beginning in 2005, the congresses, pursuant to paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme,[1] should be held,

Emphasizing the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Acknowledging that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice, as major intergovernmental forums, have influenced national policies and practices and promoted international cooperation in that field by facilitating the exchange of views and experience, mobilizing public opinion and recommending policy options at the national, regional and international levels,

Recalling its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, in the annex to which Member States affirmed that the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice should be held every five years and should

[1] General Assembly resolution 46/152, annex.

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provide a forum for, inter alia, the exchange of views between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines, the exchange of experiences in research, law and policy development, and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice,

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, in which it stressed that all countries should promote policies consistent and coherent with the commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits, emphasized that the United Nations system had an important responsibility to assist Governments in staying fully engaged in the follow-up to and implementation of agreements and commitments reached at the major United Nations conferences and summits, and invited the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to further promote the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits,

Recalling further its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007, in which it endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[2]

Recalling its resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, in which it endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to review the implementation of the Doha Declaration under the standing item on its agenda entitled "Follow-up to the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice",

Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015,

Encouraged by the success of the Thirteenth Congress as one of the largest and most diverse forums for the exchange of views on and experiences in research, law and policy and programme development between States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

Stressing the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Fourteenth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments to take into consideration the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic

[2] See E/CN.15/2007/6.

[3] E/CN.15/2016/11.

Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, adopted by the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, [4] when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make every effort, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of Qatar to work with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in ensuring appropriate follow-up to the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and also welcomes the funding agreement signed on 27 November 2015 between the Government and the Office;

4. *Invites* Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requests the Secretary-General to include those suggestions in the report on the follow-up to the Thirteenth Congress and preparations for the Fourteenth Congress to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-sixth session;

5. *Recommends* that, building on the experience and the success of the Thirteenth Congress, all efforts be made to ensure that the overall theme and the agenda items and workshop topics of the Fourteenth Congress be interrelated and that the agenda items and workshop topics be streamlined and limited in number, and encourages the holding of side events that are focused on and complement the agenda items and workshops;

6. *Requests* the Commission to approve at its twenty-sixth session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Fourteenth Congress.

47th plenary meeting
26 July 2016

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[4] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

United Nations E/RES/2016/17

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 19 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2016/30)*]

2016/17. Restorative justice in criminal matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1999/26 of 28 July 1999, entitled "Development and implementation of mediation and restorative justice measures in criminal justice", in which the Council requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider the desirability of formulating United Nations standards in the field of mediation and restorative justice,

Recalling also its resolutions 2000/14 of 27 July 2000 and 2002/12 of 24 July 2002, both entitled "Basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters",

Taking note with appreciation of the handbook on restorative justice programmes prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[1] which provides an overview of key considerations in the implementation of participatory responses to crime based on a restorative justice approach, and noting the efforts made by the Office in providing capacity-building activities on the use of restorative justice processes, in particular in the context of juvenile justice,

Taking into account the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,[2]

Noting the discussions on restorative justice during the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, under the agenda item entitled "Offenders and victims: accountability and fairness in the justice process",[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/261 of 31 January 2002, entitled "Plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century", in particular the

[1] *Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes*, Criminal Justice Handbook Series (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.V.15).

[2] General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

[3] See A/CONF.187/15, chap. V, sect. E.

16-13392 (E)

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action on restorative justice in order to follow up the commitments undertaken in paragraph 28 of the Vienna Declaration,[4]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples annexed thereto,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which includes in Sustainable Development Goal 16 a call for ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels,

Emphasizing that, in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, Member States stressed the need to reinforce alternatives to imprisonment, which may include restorative justice,

Emphasizing also that, in the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, it is recognized that an important and highly effective way of reducing the number of children in contact with the justice system is through diversion measures, restorative justice programmes and the use of non-coercive treatment and education programmes as alternative measures to judicial proceedings, and noting the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Children's Fund in developing a global programme in this regard,

Noting the discussions on restorative juvenile justice at the World Congress on Juvenile Justice, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015,

Taking note with appreciation of General Assembly resolution 70/174 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", in which the Assembly endorsed the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation, in which Heads of State and Government, ministers and representatives of Member States affirmed their endeavour, inter alia, to review or reform their restorative justice and other processes in support of successful reintegration,

Recognizing that the use of restorative justice does not prejudice the right of States to prosecute alleged offenders, that participants in restorative justice processes must be protected by appropriate safeguards and that restorative justice processes should take into account the principle of proportionality and be used only with the free, informed and voluntary consent of the victim and the offender,

Reaffirming the shared commitment to universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognizing that restorative justice processes can be adapted to established criminal justice systems and complement those systems, taking into account legal, social, economic and cultural circumstances,

[4] General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex.

Recognizing the need to ensure that restorative justice processes are gender-sensitive and uphold the rule of law,

Taking into account that restorative justice processes, such as victim-offender mediation, community and family group conferencing, circle sentencing, peacemaking and truth and reconciliation commissions, can contribute to a wide range of beneficial outcomes, including redressing the harm done to the victims, holding offenders accountable for their actions and engaging the community in the resolution of conflict,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek comments from Member States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders with experience in restorative justice processes on the use and application of the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters, annexed to its resolution 2002/12, and on national experiences and best practices in using and applying restorative justice processes;

2. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to convene a meeting of restorative justice experts in collaboration with Member States, relevant United Nations entities, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other relevant stakeholders with experience in restorative justice processes, in order to review the use and application of the basic principles on the use of restorative justice programmes in criminal matters, as well as new developments and innovative approaches in the area of restorative justice;

3. *Encourages* Member States, where appropriate, to facilitate restorative justice processes, in accordance with national law, including through the establishment of procedures or guidelines on the conditions for such services;

4. *Also encourages* Member States to assist one another in the exchange of experiences on restorative justice, the development and implementation of research, training or other programmes and activities to stimulate discussion, including through relevant regional initiatives;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider providing technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, upon request, including through voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to assist them in the development and implementation of restorative justice programmes, where appropriate;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop training materials on restorative justice and continue to offer training and other capacity-building opportunities in this regard, in particular for practitioners working in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, and to make available and disseminate information on successful restorative justice models and practices, in close coordination with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide advisory services and technical assistance to Member States, upon request, in the area of restorative juvenile justice;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its session following the meeting of experts referred to in paragraph 2 above, on the outcome of the meeting and on other efforts made in implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2016/30)*]

2016/18. Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] for States parties to that Convention, and recalling other relevant international legal instruments, standards and norms concerning the rights and well-being of the child, including the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[3]

Recalling the international standards and norms in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, including the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,[4] and the guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention,[5]

Mindful of the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[6] in particular the fundamental principles and the general provisions on prevention contained therein, which, inter alia, place the involvement of children in criminal activities at the core of crime prevention in society and recommend society-wide efforts with a child-centred approach focusing on the well-being of young persons, a comprehensive, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach to the prevention of the involvement of children in criminal activities and youth crime, and the development of progressive and systematic prevention policies in order to provide opportunities to meet the varying needs of young persons and safeguard their well-being, development, rights and interests,

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[3] General Assembly resolution 69/194, annex.
[4] Resolution 2002/13, annex.
[5] Resolution 1995/9, annex.
[6] General Assembly resolution 45/112, annex.

16-13397 (E)

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Mindful also of relevant provisions of the United Nations standards and norms for the treatment of children in conflict with the law, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules)[7] and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules),[8] and the relevant provisions of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),[9]

Emphasizing the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/194 of 18 December 2014, in which, the Assembly stressed the importance of preventing incidents of violence against children and of responding in a timely manner to support child victims of violence, including to prevent their revictimization, and invited Member States to adopt knowledge-based, comprehensive and multisectoral prevention strategies and policies to address the factors that give rise to violence against children and that expose them to the risk of violence,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Member States to implement the Model Strategies and Practical Measures,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",[10]

Emphasizing that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development may benefit from support provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Member States in the application and implementation of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice, the development and implementation of national crime prevention strategies and action plans and sector-specific projects aimed at the prevention of the involvement of children in criminal activities, youth crime and victimization and violence against women and children, and access to justice and social reintegration of offenders,

Emphasizing also in this context the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 16, Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and its targets of significantly reducing all forms of violence, ending abuse, exploitation and violence against children, promoting the rule of law and ensuring equal access to justice for all, and Sustainable Development Goal 11, Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, which requires engagement with local authorities to foster community cohesion and personal security through the management and planning of cities and human settlements,

Being aware of the benefit of providing, where necessary, a socially and emotionally safe and supportive environment for the empowerment of young

[7] General Assembly resolution 40/33, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex.

[9] General Assembly resolution 65/229, annex.

[10] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

people in order to prevent the recruitment and involvement of youth in any kind of violent crime,[11]

Recognizing the need to strengthen national, regional and international efforts in developing holistic policies and strategies aimed at preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities,

Recognizing also the importance of integrating crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, placing particular emphasis on communities, families, children and youth, including those in vulnerable situations, and of encouraging partnerships between all appropriate levels of government and relevant stakeholders within civil society in order to strengthen and sustain effective crime prevention strategies, programmes and initiatives, as appropriate, and promote a culture of peace and non-violence,

Recognizing further the need for an integrated and comprehensive approach to countering crime, inter alia, urban crime, by addressing social and economic root causes related to crime and criminal justice,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/189 of 20 December 2012, in which the Assembly requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its existing mandate, to continue strengthening the regular collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate, reliable and comparable data and information, and strongly encouraged Member States to share such data and information with the Office, and noting that States should do so while preserving the best interests of the child,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/195 of 18 December 2014, in which the Assembly stressed the importance of encouraging Member States to develop, as appropriate, comprehensive crime prevention policies based on an understanding of the multiple factors that contribute to crime and to address such factors in a holistic manner, while emphasizing that crime prevention should be an integral element of strategies to foster social and economic development in all States, and recognized the cross-cutting nature of the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice and development, recommending that such linkages and interrelationships be properly addressed and further elaborated,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/24 of 21 July 2015, in which the Council recognized the importance and cross-cutting nature of information and statistics in developing and supporting public policies at the national, regional and global levels, as well as in measuring the implementation of relevant international instruments in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, and requested the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to develop, in consultation with Member States, technical and methodological tools to assist countries in producing and disseminating accurate and comparable statistics on crime and criminal justice, and to continue to provide technical assistance, upon request, to Member States in order to enhance their capacity to collect, analyse and report data on crime and criminal justice,

Expressing concern about the large number of children and youth who may or may not be in conflict with the law but who are abandoned, neglected, abused, exploited, exposed to drug abuse and are in marginal circumstances and in general at social risk,

[11] See the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (see A/70/674).

Convinced of the importance of preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, supporting the rehabilitation of children in conflict with the law and their reintegration into society, protecting child victims and witnesses and other children at risk of such involvement and victimization, including efforts to prevent their revictimization, and addressing the needs of children in vulnerable situations, such as children of incarcerated parents, and convinced also that such holistic crime prevention and criminal justice responses should take into account the human rights and best interests of the child and a gender perspective,

Reaffirming the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[12] which emphasizes that education for all children and youth, including the eradication of illiteracy, is fundamental to the prevention of crime and corruption and to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness that supports the rule of law and human rights while respecting cultural identities, and stresses the fundamental role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts,

1. *Urges* Member States to mainstream crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth with a gender perspective into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, including those addressing education, health, civic participation, socioeconomic opportunities, information and communications technology and public safety and security, in order to protect children and youth from social marginalization and exclusion and to reduce their risk of becoming victims or offenders;

2. *Encourages* Member States to conduct further research on the involvement of children and youth in gang-related crime and to exchange, among Member States and with relevant international and regional organizations, experiences and information on effective and relevant crime prevention programmes and policies, in order to address through innovative approaches the impact of urban crime and gang-related crime on children and youth, fostering social inclusion and employment opportunities and aiming at facilitating social reintegration of children and youth;

3. *Welcomes* the deliberations of the Statistical Commission at its forty-sixth session, at which the Commission endorsed the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes as an international statistical standard for the collection of data from both administrative records and statistical surveys and as an analytical tool to elicit specific information on factors driving crime, and invites Member States to continue to support the implementation of the International Classification, as appropriate, in order to improve the quality and availability of statistics on youth crime and the involvement of children in criminal activities;

4. *Calls upon* Member States to develop and implement policies with a view to preventing the involvement of children in criminal activities, promoting the use of alternative measures to judicial proceedings and to detention, where appropriate, such as diversion and restorative justice, and to consider adopting reintegration strategies for children and youth in conflict with the law, consistent with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time and that the use of pretrial detention for children, wherever possible, should be avoided, all of which can contribute to the prevention of recidivism;

[12] General Assembly resolution 70/174, annex.

5. *Encourages* Member States to enhance capacity-building of criminal justice professionals and institutions in the area of crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth by providing gender- and child-sensitive training to understand, recognize and effectively respond to all forms of deeply distressing or disturbing experiences of children and youth;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Member States and relevant international and regional organizations to enhance cooperation and coordination at all levels, including with relevant non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, in order to better identify, understand, prevent and respond to the involvement of children and youth in criminal activities, and to share information, while preserving the best interests of the child, and knowledge and best practices regarding youth crime prevention;

7. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to continue its efforts in promoting, as necessary, the collection, analysis and dissemination of data, disaggregated by sex and age, and systematic research on particular situations of social risk and exploitation of children and youth in criminal activities in all forms and manifestations;

8. *Encourages* Member States to make full use of the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime[4] and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (the Riyadh Guidelines),[6] as appropriate, in the wider context of their national economic and social policies, in order to strengthen gender-sensitive crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth and criminal justice approaches leading to adequate responses to crime in all its forms and manifestations including emerging forms of crime;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, based on national needs and priorities, in the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice[3] through the global programme developed in this regard;

10. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in view of its specific mandates in crime prevention and criminal justice and in terrorism prevention, to continue its work on the prevention of the recruitment and exploitation of children and youth by any violent criminal group or terrorist group;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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26 July 2016

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 26 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (E/2016/28)*]

2016/19. Promoting the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[1] and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[2]

Reaffirming also the commitments contained in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem,[3] adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/182 of 18 December 2009, as well as the joint ministerial statement of the 2014 high-level review by the Commission of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, adopted at the high-level segment of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission,[4]

Recalling its resolution 68/196 of 18 December 2013, in which it adopted the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and encouraged Member States, international organizations, international financial institutions, entities and other relevant stakeholders to take into account the Guiding Principles when designing and implementing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes,

[1] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 8* (E/2009/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] Ibid., *2014, Supplement No. 8* (E/2014/28), chap. I, sect. C.

16-13473 (E)

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Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 52/6 of 20 March 2009,[3] 53/6 of 12 March 2010,[5] 54/4 of 25 March 2011,[6] 55/4 of 16 March 2012,[7] 57/1 of 21 March 2014[4] and 58/4 of 17 March 2015,[8]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[9] and stressing that the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals contained in the 2030 Agenda,

Taking note of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop on the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development,[10] which includes conclusions and recommendations drawn from the field visits, the seminar/workshop and the high-level International Conference, and noting in particular the alternative development projects, as seen in the field visits, focused on enhancing individual and community resilience and recognized as an example of the sufficiency economy philosophy of the King of Thailand,

Reaffirming that alternative development is an important, lawful, viable and sustainable alternative to the illicit cultivation of drug crops, that it is an effective measure to counter the world drug problem and other drug-related crime challenges and that it is one of the key components of policies and programmes for reducing illicit drug production,

Expressing concern that the illicit cultivation of drug crops and illicit drug production, manufacture, distribution and trafficking remain major challenges in countering the world drug problem, and recognizing the need to strengthen sustainable crop control strategies that include alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures, for the purpose of preventing and reducing significantly and measurably the illicit cultivation of drug crops, and the need to intensify joint efforts at the national, regional and international levels in a more comprehensive manner, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility, including by means of appropriate preventive tools and measures, enhanced and better-coordinated financial and technical assistance and action-oriented programmes, in order to tackle those challenges,

Noting with concern that overall financial support for alternative development projects and programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development projects and programmes, has accounted for only a minor share of official development assistance and has reached only a minor percentage of communities and households involved in illicit drug crop cultivation at the global level,

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[5] Ibid., *2010, Supplement No. 8* (E/2010/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[6] Ibid., *2011, Supplement No. 8* (E/2011/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[7] Ibid., *2012, Supplement No. 8* (E/2012/28), chap. I, sect. B.

[8] Ibid., *2015, Supplement No. 8* (E/2015/28), chap. I, sect. C.

[9] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[10] E/CN.7/2016/13, annex.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome of the international seminar/workshop and the Second International Conference on Alternative Development, held in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Bangkok, Thailand, and Shan State, Myanmar, from 19 to 24 November 2015 and hosted by the Government of Thailand, in collaboration with the Government of Germany, the Government of Myanmar and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,[10] as an input to continued discussions on and enhanced implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development,[11] in accordance with national legislation;

2. *Reaffirms*, as highlighted in the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, that alternative development, as an integral component of policies and programmes for reducing drug production, is an important, viable and sustainable option for preventing, eliminating or significantly and measurably reducing the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production and manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through tackling poverty and providing livelihood opportunities;

3. *Urges* Member States affected by or at risk of illicit crop cultivation to consider integrating comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, into national development policies and strategies, as appropriate, to address illicit crop cultivation and its related socioeconomic factors, provide sustainable alternative livelihoods and significantly contribute to the building of inclusive and just societies in order to reduce inequality within and among countries;

4. *Urges* Member States, when formulating and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development strategies and policies, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development strategies and policies, to take into account the specific needs of the communities and groups affected by the illicit cultivation of crops used for drug production and manufacture, within the broader framework of national policies;

5. *Stresses* that, when designing and implementing comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, the focus should be on empowering and encouraging ownership by local communities, including women, children and young people, taking into account their specific needs, and on strengthening local capacities, as ensuring the effective cooperation of all stakeholders in the entire alternative development process is crucial for the success of alternative development;

6. *Also stresses* that comprehensive and sustainable alternative development, as one of the tools available for tackling the world drug problem, increases the State's presence, builds trust between communities and government, strengthens local governance and institutions, promotes peaceful and inclusive societies and, under Sustainable Development Goal 16, includes the promotion of the rule of law;

7. *Encourages* further discussions on the relationship and potential links between alternative development and the promotion of the rule of law by

[11] General Assembly resolution 68/196, annex.

individuals and communities, as well as on the wide range of challenges affecting the livelihoods and well-being of people, in order to further develop measures to address the root causes of such challenges;

8. *Encourages* Member States to ensure the proper and coordinated sequencing of development interventions when designing alternative development programmes;

9. *Stresses* that access to productive land and land rights, such as legal titles to land for farmers and local communities, should be promoted and protected in the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, in a manner that is consistent with domestic law and regulations as well as with the full participation of and in consultation with local communities;

10. *Emphasizes* that the marketability of products stemming from alternative development programmes should be assessed before implementing such programmes and, where applicable, alternative development products should be aimed at creating value-added chains to enable target communities to obtain higher incomes in order to support sustainable livelihoods and substitute the income generated from illicit crop cultivation;

11. *Encourages* the international community, including civil society, the scientific community and academia, to work with affected communities to develop recommendations focusing on specific alternative development strategies that take into account demographic, cultural, social and geographical conditions and include ideas on supporting and promoting new products;

12. *Calls upon* Member States to apply the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development when designing, implementing and evaluating alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, and calls upon Member States with experience in this area to share outcomes, assessments of implemented projects and lessons learned, thereby contributing to the dissemination and application of the Guiding Principles;

13. *Urges* Member States to sustain political will and a long-term commitment with regard to implementing alternative development programmes and strategies and to continue to engage in awareness programmes and in dialogue and cooperation with all relevant stakeholders;

14. *Urges* relevant international financial institutions, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to increase their rural development support for regions and populations affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of drug crops through long-term and flexible funding, and encourages States, to the extent possible, to remain strongly committed to financing alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen intragovernmental coordination when designing and implementing alternative development projects and programmes;

16. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations entities and specialized agencies to further increase their interaction with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to support Member States in effectively implementing alternative development

programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, with a view to further enhancing coherence and coordination within the United Nations system;

17. *Encourages* development agencies, donors and financial institutions, the private sector, civil society and academia to share information, experiences and best practices, promote research and increase efforts on the promotion of alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development;

18. *Recognizes* that more research is needed to better understand and identify factors contributing to the emergence of illicit crop cultivation and to improve impact assessments of alternative development programmes;

19. *Affirms* that, in addition to estimates of illicit cultivation and other illicit activities related to the world drug problem, indicators related to human development, socioeconomic conditions, rural development and the alleviation of poverty, as well as institutional and environmental indicators, should be used when assessing alternative development programmes in order to ensure that the outcomes are in line with national and international development objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and that they reflect accountable use of donor funds and truly benefit affected communities;

20. *Calls upon* Member States and other donors to consider providing long-term support to alternative development programmes and projects, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes and projects, that target the illicit cultivation of drug crops, in order to contribute to the sustainability of social and economic development and poverty eradication, including through enhanced development-oriented approaches that implement measures for rural development, strengthen local governments and institutions, improve infrastructure, including the provision of public services such as water, energy, health and education in areas acutely impacted by the illicit cultivation of drug crops, promote the participation of local communities, enhance the empowerment of people and strengthen the resilience of communities;

21. *Encourages* Member States to maintain and strengthen international cooperation to support comprehensive and sustainable alternative development programmes, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development programmes, as an essential part of successful crop control strategies, in order to increase the positive outcomes of such programmes, especially in areas affected by or at risk of the illicit cultivation of crops used for the production of narcotic drugs, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Alternative Development;

22. *Encourages* Member States with extensive expertise in alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, to continue to share best practices, upon request, promote research to better understand factors contributing to illicit crop cultivation and foster and strengthen international cooperation, including cross-continental, interregional, subregional and regional technical cooperation on integral and sustainable alternative development, which includes in some cases preventive alternative development;

23. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes described above, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

47th plenary meeting
26 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/20

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 14

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.25)*]

2016/20. Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[2]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[3]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/16 of 20 July 2015,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV),

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant

[1] A/71/69.
[2] E/2016/49.
[3] See E/2016/SR.48.

16-13475 (E)

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resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the resources necessary for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the Non-Self-Governing Territories concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various decisions of the United Nations relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/231 of 23 December 2015, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[2] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the

Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples, on a case-by-case basis;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories on a case-by-case basis;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible on a case-by-case basis;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned and on a case-by-case basis, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Recalls* the preparation by the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an

informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and its updated online version, and requests that they be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to continue their cooperation with the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in the framework of the responsibilities established in Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular subparagraph *d*, and to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on a case-by-case basis;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on 16 May 1998 of its resolution 574 (XXVII),[4] in which the Commission called for the mechanisms necessary for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Council to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chair of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken

[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Council at its 2017 session;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/21

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 18 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.19)*]

2016/21. Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[2]

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session;[3]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on productive capacity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council, on the themes selected by the Committee on total official support for

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 13* (E/2016/33).

16-13477 (E)

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sustainable development, on the monitoring of the development progress of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries, and on its review of a proposal for a graduation toolkit to further improve the capacity of least developed countries to address the implications of graduation in a systematic way;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its nineteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2017 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries that have graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Further requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the category of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

6. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

7. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee, to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 18 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2016/31)*]

2016/22. Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/26 of 22 July 2015 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015, entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/184 of 22 December 2015 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2]

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.
[2] A/71/67-E/2016/51.

16-13479 (E)

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Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

5. *Reaffirms* that one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda is to significantly increase access to information and communications technology;

6. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models, and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

7. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development;

8. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

9. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

10. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

11. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels,[2] including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

13. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

14. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;[1]

15. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 70/125, the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

16. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

17. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach and make use of them by the end of 2016, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-learning, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

18. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

19. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries;

20. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

21. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

22. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

23. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital divide and the knowledge divide are also changing in character, from a divide based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive therefrom, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative

approaches, including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

24. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2015: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution 70/125 to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

26. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of resolution 70/125;

27. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

28. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

29. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

30. *Reaffirms* that, in the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually,[4] the most recent Forum having been held in Geneva from 2 to 6 May 2016, as a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the World Summit outcomes by all stakeholders;

[4] See General Assembly resolution 70/125.

31. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action[5] as the framework for identifying practical measures to use information and communications technologies to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda, noting the World Summit on the Information Society-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by United Nations agencies, and further encourages these entities to ensure close alignment to the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the World Summit, according to their existing mandates and resources;

32. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Internet governance

33. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

34. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[6]

35. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

Enhanced cooperation

36. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

37. *Notes* the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the structure and composition of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125;

38. *Recommends*, bearing in mind past practice, that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, in deciding on its methods of work, should consider ensuring transparency, inclusiveness and diversity of views, including by being open to the active participation of all member States and observer States of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and representatives of other relevant stakeholders, and should aim to adopt its report and recommendations by consensus, reflecting different options and opinions, if necessary;

[5] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[6] See A/60/687.

Internet Governance Forum

39. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

40. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to extend the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for a further 10 years, during which time the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

41. *Recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

42. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;[7]

43. *Notes* the holding of the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Brazil in João Pessoa from 10 to 13 November 2015, under the theme "Evolution of Internet governance: empowering sustainable development";

44. *Welcomes* the holding of the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Mexico from 6 to 9 December 2016 in Guadalajara, under the theme "Enabling inclusive and sustainable growth", and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum are being taken into consideration;

45. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

46. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda;

47. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and

[7] A/67/65-E/2012/48 and Corr.1.

applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries;

48. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides;

49. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

50. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[8]

51. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services are essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

52. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

53. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

54. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(*a*) *Encourages* Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(*b*) *Encourages* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

[8] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

(*c*) *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development and the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*, which provides recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(*d*) *Encourages* the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to follow up on Statistical Commission decision 47/110 of 11 March 2016 on information and communications technology statistics,[9] and recommends in that context that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purposes of producing high quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

(*e*) *Notes* the holding, in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December 2015, of the thirteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

55. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

56. *Recalls* the proposal in General Assembly resolution 70/125 that the Assembly hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025;

57. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its nineteenth session;[10]

58. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

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[9] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 4* (E/2016/24), chap. I, sect. B.

[10] Ibid., *Supplement No. 11* (E/2016/31).

United Nations E/RES/2016/23

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 18 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2016/31)*]

2016/23. Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing,

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

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respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divide,

Recognizing that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels is essential in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris, from 30 November to 13 December 2015,[2]

Welcoming also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Welcoming further the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development",

Recognizing the need for new approaches that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing also that technology foresight exercises could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

[2] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Recognizing further that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems[3] play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Noting further various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(*a*) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting smart infrastructure, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020 and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation and information and

[3] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[4]

(v) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

(vii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(viii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(ix) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(x) To conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States;

(xi) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;

(xii) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda;

(xiii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship;

(xiv) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve

[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xv) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;

(xvi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(*b*) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,[5] international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (*a*) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (*b*) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(viii) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(ix) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development, in collaboration with relevant institutions, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(x) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation;

(xi) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Council, taking into account that 2016 is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(*c*) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(iv) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/24

Economic and Social Council

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12 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 18 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.23)*]

2016/24. Human settlements

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions and decisions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[1]

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, entitled "Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)", resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled "The future we want", resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015, entitled "Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda)", resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and resolutions 68/239 of 27 December 2013, 69/226 of 19 December 2014 and 70/210 of 22 December 2015, entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)",

Acknowledging the work of UN-Habitat, and of other relevant United Nations bodies, towards attaining the goal of sustainable urban development and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda as well as other internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to human settlements, including its support to countries in this regard,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[2]

2. *Decides* to transmit the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its seventy-first session;

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996* (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] E/2016/54.

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3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2017 a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/25

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2016

2016 session
Agenda item 18 (*f*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission on Population and Development (E/2016/25)*]

2016/25. Future organization and methods of work of the Commission on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2015/252 of 22 July 2015, in which it decided that the Commission on Population and Development should review the functioning of its methods of work at its forty-ninth session, in 2016, with a view to further enhancing the impact of the work of the Commission and its contribution to the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995 and its decision 2005/213 of 31 March 2005, as well as Commission on Population and Development resolution 2006/1 of 10 May 2006[1] and decisions 2004/2 of 26 March 2004[2] and 2005/2 of 14 April 2005[3] on the methods of work of the Commission,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly called for the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions, and emphasized the need to strengthen the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social, environmental and related fields, and recalling Council resolution 1981/83 of 24 July 1981, in which it instructed its subsidiary bodies to rationalize their agendas and programmes of work, resolution 1982/50 of 28 July 1982, in which it recommended that the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the Council be rationalized in order to enable them to effectively implement the mandates entrusted to them, and decision 1983/163 of 22 July 1983 with regard to the integration or consolidation of documents that deal with related or similar themes, with a view to rationalizing documentation, without having a negative impact on their technical quality, as necessary,

Recognizing the key role that the Economic and Social Council plays in achieving balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development,

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[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Ibid., *2004, Supplement No. 5* (E/2004/25), chap. I, sect. B.

[3] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 5* (E/2005/25), chap. I, sect. B.

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Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[4] and the key actions for its further implementation,[5]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, in which it was decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Economic and Social Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and a revitalized Population Commission [6] should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/234 of 22 December 2010 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, in which the Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and stressing the importance of the implementation of this new ambitious Agenda,

Emphasizing the breadth of experience of non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation and the need to continue to promote their effective participation in and valuable contribution to the work of the Commission on Population and Development, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council,

1. *Reaffirms* the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[4] and the key actions for its further implementation[5] as well as the outcomes of its reviews, takes note of the outcome documents of the regional review conferences on population and development, and stresses that the outcome documents of the regional review conferences provide region-specific guidance on population and development beyond 2014 for each region that adopted the particular outcome document;

2. *Also reaffirms* the primary mandate of the Commission on Population and Development, derived from General Assembly resolution 49/128, in which the Assembly decided that the Commission would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and would advise the Economic and Social Council thereon;

3. *Further reaffirms* the central role of the Commission in coordinating the review and assessment of the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, including addressing gaps and challenges to implementation;

4. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[7] within its existing mandate, and that the contribution of the Commission should reflect the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as their interlinkages;

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[4] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

[6] The Population Commission was renamed the Commission on Population and Development pursuant to para. 24 of General Assembly resolution 49/128.

[7] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

5. *Decides* that the Commission will streamline its agenda and programme of work by consolidating agenda items and rationalizing related documentation and reports without having a negative impact on their technical quality, with a view to enabling the Commission to effectively perform its mandate and to increasing complementarity and avoiding duplication;

6. *Also decides* that the Commission shall continue its current practice of selecting one special theme for each annual session on the basis of progress, gaps, recurrent challenges and evolving issues relevant to population and development based on the Programme of Action and the key actions to accelerate its further implementation, while also taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to fully implementing all of its mandated tasks and contributing to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including by building synergies and, in the context of its working methods, as appropriate, taking into account the thematic annual focus of the Council and of the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 67/290 of 9 July 2013 and 68/1, as part of a multi-year work programme;

7. *Further decides* to include under the item on the general debate two sub-items, one focusing on actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action at the global, regional and national levels, and one focusing on the special theme of the Commission;

8. *Encourages* all Member States, in their statements in the general debate, to give emphasis to national and regional experiences, achievements, challenges and lessons learned;

9. *Notes* the contribution of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors towards the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and reaffirms that, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and with Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, they should continue to be given the opportunity to actively participate in the work of the Commission;

10. *Requests* the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and other relevant stakeholders, to continue to convene expert meetings and informal technical briefings on the special theme prior to each annual session of the Commission;

11. *Requests* the Bureau of the Commission to make all efforts to improve communication with Member States by, inter alia, circulating the minutes of its meetings in a cumulative form to the members of the respective regional groups within 10 days of the meeting;

12. *Affirms* that the resolutions and decisions of the Commission will be negotiated and that the outcome of the discussions on the special theme will continue to contain substantive and action-oriented recommendations for furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, and encourages the Bureau to take the necessary steps in this regard;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional groups nominating their representatives as early as possible, and no later than the last day of an annual session, so that the election of members of the Bureau for the next session at the closure of the current session can proceed on schedule, thereby facilitating the active participation of all Bureau members throughout the process of preparing for the next session;

14. *Encourages* the regional commissions of the United Nations to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission, in collaboration, where appropriate, with other intergovernmental organizations, especially regional organizations, and other United Nations entities;

15. *Reaffirms* the complementary roles of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund, within their existing mandates, in supporting the efficient work of the Commission;

16. *Decides* that the Commission may, at the request of Member States, further review its methods of work in view of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

United Nations E/RES/2016/26

Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 18 (*g*)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 27 July 2016

[on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.30)]

2016/26. Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2012/28 of 27 July 2012, 2013/23 of 24 July 2013, 2014/38 of 18 November 2014, 2015/28 of 22 July 2015 and other related resolutions on public administration and development, in which it affirmed that service to citizens should be at the centre of transforming public administration and that the foundations of sustainable development at all levels include transparent, participatory and accountable governance and a professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public administration,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/327 of 14 September 2015, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of freedom, human rights, national sovereignty, good governance, the rule of law, peace and security, combating

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corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels as central to enabling inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development,

Noting the importance of integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning,

Referring to the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[1] which entered into force on 14 December 2005,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/184 of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly recognized the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divide, and stressing that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/228 of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions, in which the Assembly emphasized that efficient, accountable and transparent public administration has a key role to play in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing the role of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in providing policy advice and programmatic guidance to the Economic and Social Council on issues related to governance and public administration, and the relevance of the work of the Committee to the implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its fifteenth session,[2] and expresses its appreciation for the work done by the Committee on moving from commitments to results in transforming public institutions to facilitate inclusive policy formulation and integration in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, in accordance with the 2016 theme of the Economic and Social Council;

2. *Invites* the Committee to place the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] at the centre of its work and to continue to advise the Council on how public administrations can support the implementation and progress reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the contribution of the Committee to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and invites Member States to make the principle of leaving no one behind a core principle of public administration;

Role of public institutions

4. *Stresses* that an effective public administration is a fundamental condition for the successful implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 24* (E/2016/44).

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

5. *Welcomes* the fact that many countries are in the process of identifying and updating policies, strategies, institutions and arrangements for spearheading and coordinating the implementation and progress review of the Sustainable Development Goals, also welcomes the exchange of lessons learned on this topic at the high-level political forum in July 2016, and notes the importance of the sectoral ministries, in developing and implementing policies in their respective areas, taking into account the interrelationships inherent in the Goals;

6. *Acknowledges* the need to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels and to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels;

Integrated policies for the Sustainable Development Goals

7. *Encourages* Governments to develop institutional arrangements and mechanisms for supporting the development and implementation of coherent and integrated policies for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, noting that this also requires sustained leadership and that cooperation, consultation, engagement, dialogue and partnership should be the modus operandi of public administrations and public servants;

8. *Notes* the importance of a clear framework for allocating responsibilities related to the Sustainable Development Goals and for establishing the working relationships between the national and subnational levels of government;

9. *Underscores* the fact that local governments have a critical role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, given their proximity to the population and at the grass-roots level, their role in delivering basic public services and their ability to take integrated approaches, bearing in mind that Goal 11 is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

10. *Stresses* that the responsibilities of local governments for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals should be supported by adequate human and financial resources and capacities;

11. *Recommends* that national and local governments, in their first steps to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, identify implementation priorities, targets and institutional arrangements and, inter alia, determine who is at risk of being left behind, drawing on broad consultations and engagement with civil society, with particular consideration given to necessary institutional reforms, as well as adjustments to policies, capacities and resources;

12. *Calls for* innovative efforts to build the capacities of public institutions for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in areas such as coherent policymaking, planning, implementation, foresight, evidence-based reviews of progress and the collection and use of statistics and data;

13. *Calls upon* Governments and other relevant actors to sustain the promotion of creativity, innovation and excellence in public administration, inter alia, by transforming administrative structures, processes, legislation and regulations based on information and communications technology and the Internet;

Participatory decision-making and inclusive service delivery

14. *Encourages* Governments to develop an open government system as a model of governance that focuses on citizens and establishes a new relationship between public administration and society;

15. *Recognizes* that the policies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals should be evidence-based, developed in a participatory, inclusive and collaborative fashion and focused on achieving results;

16. *Notes* that realizing the Sustainable Development Goals will require major efforts and investments to raise awareness about the Goals, build ownership of the Goals and create a culture of inclusive engagement and responsibility among all stakeholders through education, communication, interaction, advocacy and capacity-building;

17. *Recognizes* that fostering open government and promoting citizen engagement are essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

18. *Also recognizes* the transformative power of information and communications technology while noting that many forms of digital divide remain, and stresses that approaches to the delivery of public services for sustainable development must be multidimensional in order to reach the poorest and most vulnerable;

19. *Notes* the value of the United Nations e-Government Survey as a tool in support of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

20. *Encourages* Governments pursuing open government initiatives to conduct an independent evaluation of the impact of such initiatives on the quality of public services and on the strengthening of transparency, accountability and social inclusion, with a view to enhancing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

Diversity and non-discrimination

21. *Expects* that the promotion of inclusion and diversity as a positive force, together with global values related to mutual respect among people of all backgrounds and views, will drive the changes necessary for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and advises that efforts in this regard need to focus both on society at large and on public servants;

22. *Recognizes* that, within public institutions, a balance must be found between the concern for integrating people who have been discriminated against, on the one hand, and the concerns for giving equal chances to all and ensuring the efficient functioning of institutions, on the other hand;

23. *Notes* that ensuring inclusiveness by and within public administration requires committed and inclusive leadership and a holistic, coherent and integrated vision in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, which may include the establishment of institutional and legislative diversity frameworks and mechanisms at all levels;

24. *Calls upon* Governments to proactively pursue policies to ensure that public services and public action improve the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable and those who are discriminated against;

25. *Also calls upon* Governments to develop innovative approaches, including community-driven development, to ensure that public services fully benefit the poorest and most vulnerable, inter alia, through the establishment of policy impact assessments, institutional and legislative frameworks and mechanisms to ensure that no one is left behind, as well as partnering with communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

26. *Invites* Governments to consider measures to understand and address the factors driving discrimination and exclusion in public institutions on the basis of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential;

Oversight and accountability in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

27. *Recognizes* that corruption will undermine the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and stresses that combating corruption at all levels requires a broad approach to preventing, detecting and punishing corrupt practices at the social level and targeted approaches to address the specific types of corruption that block the achievement of particular Goals;

28. *Encourages* Governments to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, in order to allow citizens to hold State institutions accountable for the use of resources entrusted to them and for their performance in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals;

29. *Notes* that a transparent election process at both the national and local levels is crucial for a committed, ethical and engaged leadership;

30. *Underscores* the fact that policies, programmes and actions for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals should be designed and monitored in a participatory and transparent manner with a built-in concern for accountability;

Public servants and the Sustainable Development Goals

31. *Considers* that successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals depends on a merit-based civil service, which helps to promote public ethics and ensures effective and fair human resources management;

32. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that public institutions include civil servants from all segments of the population, that civil servants receive effective training and that they are subject to fair and merit-based employment decisions;

Follow-up

33. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, educational and research institutions, schools of public administration and other organizations to collaborate in raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals, which may involve the organization of various activities, including meetings and symposiums;

34. *Requests* the Committee, at its sixteenth session, to be held from 24 to 28 April 2017, to examine and make recommendations on the theme of the 2017 session of the Council;

35. *Invites* the Committee to contribute to the thematic review of the high-level political forum, giving particular attention to the cross-cutting nature of all the Sustainable Development Goals;

36. *Also invites* the Committee to continue to advise on approaches and practices related to the institutions, policies and arrangements being established to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind that the specific context and situation of countries differ widely;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the present resolution fully into account in the work of the Organization, inter alia, in addressing gaps in research and analysis and in responding to the capacity development needs of Member States for building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels in pursuit of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

38. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote and support innovation and excellence in public services for sustainable development through the United Nations Public Service Awards;

39. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution through the established working methods of the Committee.

48th plenary meeting
27 July 2016

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[*on a proposal considered in plenary meeting (E/2016/L.28)*]

2016/27. Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which the Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", in which Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of space technology-based data, in situ monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policymaking, programming and project operations,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, in which the Assembly adopted the document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which was recognized the need for new data acquisition and integration approaches to improve the availability, quality, timeliness and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels, benefiting from the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including earth observation and geospatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress,

Bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030[1] and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway[2] unequivocally call for globally coordinated actions in new data acquisition and integration approaches and in employing geospatial information for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, and to strengthen the availability and accessibility of geospatial data platforms,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 69/266 of 26 February 2015, entitled "A global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development", in which the Assembly called for greater multilateral cooperation on geodesy, including the open sharing of geospatial data, further capacity-building in developing countries, the creation of international standards and conventions, and contributions to the global reference frame and regional densifications through relevant national mechanisms and intergovernmental cooperation,

[1] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[2] General Assembly resolution 69/15, annex.

16-13489 (E)

Please recycle

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/24 of 27 July 2011, by which the Council established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to provide a forum for coordination and dialogue among Member States and between Member States and relevant international organizations,

Recalling further that, in establishing the Committee of Experts, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to its resolution 2011/24, the Council requested the Committee to present to it in 2016 a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Committee's work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness,

Noting decision 5/113, adopted on 7 August 2015 by the Committee of Experts at its fifth session,[3] in which the Committee recommended that the Council consider strengthening the mandate of the Committee in order to strengthen its interaction with other subsidiary bodies of the Council, in particular the Statistical Commission, and agreed that the role of the Committee, as an assembly of authoritative national government institutions in the field of geospatial information, was increasingly important in effectively coordinating the field of geospatial information management in the broader United Nations system,

Noting also the establishment of a strong and streamlined regional infrastructure composed of five regional technical geospatial information committees[4] that report to the Committee of Experts and bring important regional perspectives to the consideration of global geospatial issues,

Noting further the recommendations emanating from the Twentieth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific,[5] the second plenary meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas and the first plenary meeting of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, which supported the mandate of the Committee of Experts to enhance its role and increase its contribution to the work of the United Nations, agreed that the formal United Nations regional cartographic conference format was no longer a necessary requirement and recommended that the Council consider removing the conferences from the United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings, with their mandates and obligations assumed by the Committee at the global level, and their technical and substantive activities at the regional and national levels assumed by the regional technical committees of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on the review of its work;[6]

2. *Acknowledges* the considerable achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts in the area of global geospatial information management over the past five years and its contribution to the strengthening of geospatial information management capacities and utilization in developing countries;

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[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 26* (E/2015/46), chap. I, sect. B.

[4] Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Arab States; and Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe.

[5] See E/CONF.104/9.

[6] E/2016/47.

3. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Committee of Experts to streamline the work of the four current subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council in the field of geospatial information management, namely the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for the Americas and for Asia and the Pacific, respectively, and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and its related United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names;

4. *Recognizes* that the Committee of Experts has operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by the Council over the past five years, producing tangible outputs, and that the Committee is well placed to continue to contribute to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of efforts to assist Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[7] the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[1] the Paris Agreement on climate change [8] and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;[2]

5. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the coordination and coherence of global geospatial information management, in capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing, among others, through appropriate coordination mechanisms, including in the broader United Nations system, building on the work of the Committee of Experts;

6. *Acknowledges* the importance of strengthening capacity-building in the area of geospatial information management and relevant statistical integration, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

7. *Decides* to broaden and strengthen the mandate of the Committee of Experts as the relevant body on geospatial information consisting of government experts, in a cost-neutral manner, with any additional costs to the Committee being offset by the cessation of the mandates of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas;

8. *Also decides* that the formal United Nations regional cartographic conferences are no longer a necessary requirement and, in order to streamline and avoid duplication, that the meetings of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas shall cease forthwith;

9. *Confirms* the inclusion of the annual session of the Committee of Experts within the regular United Nations calendar of conferences and meetings under the Council, inclusive of the provision of dedicated United Nations conference management services and full support for the annual session of the Committee;

10. *Decides* that the substantive mandates and obligations of the United Nations Regional Cartographic Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and for the Americas shall be assumed by the Committee of Experts at the global level, and their technical and substantive activities at the regional and national levels assumed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas, respectively;

[7] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[8] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

11. *Requests* that the regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management and that the outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region;

12. *Notes* that sustainable funding and support, particularly for the operations of the Committee of Experts that focus on the Sustainable Development Goals, is needed to strengthen and ensure the continued effectiveness of the Committee, and in this regard encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions, and otherwise requests the Secretary-General to try to mobilize additional resources, including through the means of trust funds and other sources, as appropriate, and encourages Member States to consider expert secondments, to support the activities of the Committee;

13. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the countries in special situations in the Committee of Experts in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation at the sessions of the Committee, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard encourages Member States to provide voluntary contributions, and otherwise requests the Secretary-General to try to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of participation in the Committee for three government representatives from each of the special situation country groupings;

14. *Decides* to change the title of the item on the Council's agenda from "Cartography" to "Geospatial information", and invites thereunder the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names to continue to report on geographical names, and the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management to report on all matters relating to geography, geospatial information and related topics;

15. *Notes* the increasing role and relevance of the Committee of Experts and its acknowledged efforts in streamlining the subsidiary bodies of the Council on geospatial information management matters, and requests that the Committee report back to the Council, no later than in five years' time, on the implementation of the present resolution as well as on its continued efforts to work with the Statistical Commission and with the entire United Nations system, and to integrate geospatial and statistical information systems and, in this context, to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the Committee.

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2016/28. Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006, 2007/13 of 25 July 2007, 2008/10 of 23 July 2008, 2009/4 of 23 July 2009, 2010/28 of 23 July 2010, 2012/21 of 26 July 2012, 2013/15 of 23 July 2013, 2014/37 of 18 November 2014 and 2015/18 of 21 July 2015 and its decisions 2004/322 of 11 November 2004, 2009/211 of 20 April 2009, 2009/267 of 15 December 2009, 2011/207 of 17 February 2011, 2011/211 of 26 April 2011, 2011/268 of 28 July 2011, 2013/209 of 15 February 2013, 2014/207 of 30 January 2014, 2014/210 of 23 April 2014 and 2014/221 of 13 June 2014,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[1] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Recognizes* that political, institutional and socioeconomic stability are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the Government of Haiti, the United Nations and the international community in this regard;

3. *Notes with concern* the impact of the extended 2015 electoral cycle on investment, new development programming and budget support;

4. *Urges* Haiti's political actors to work cooperatively to ensure that the upcoming presidential, legislative and local elections are conducted in a free, fair, inclusive and transparent manner in keeping with the new calendar;

5. *Calls upon* all the political actors and stakeholders in Haiti to work in a spirit of consensus and dialogue so that constitutional order is re-established and legitimate, credible and well-functioning authorities are in place at all levels to contribute to the reconstruction and development process;

6. *Calls upon* donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, to remain engaged in support of the long-term development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to take more

[1] E/2016/79.

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coordinated and transparent steps to strengthen the implementation of the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

7. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to redouble efforts to use existing mechanisms for the tracking of assistance, in order to increase transparency, coordination and alignment with Haitian development priorities;

8. *Welcomes* the elaboration of a United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the period 2017–2021, and calls for, inter alia, closer coordination between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti and the United Nations country team and consultation with the Government of Haiti on the implementation of the "Delivering as one" approach by the United Nations system in Haiti;

9. *Recognizes* the positive contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives coordinated by the Government of Haiti on the basis of a horizontal and participatory approach in order to help the country to respond to development challenges in a more flexible and effective manner, with special emphasis on an integrated approach to capacity-building, and encourages all development partners, including the United Nations system and developing countries, to support such modalities;

10. *Calls upon* the Government of Haiti and development partners to support civil society organizations in Haiti, to benefit from their local knowledge and to strengthen their capacity to engage in the development process and become more effective agents of change in support of Haiti's development objectives;

11. *Invites* donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti and the national health plan, as well as with other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

12. *Calls urgently for* adequate funding for humanitarian activities, including the cholera epidemic response, as presented in the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for Haiti, and encourages partners to connect short-term activities with long-term development to build resilience and reduce the recurrence of crises;

13. *Encourages* all relevant actors within the United Nations system, including the peacebuilding architecture, as appropriate, to consider ways in which they can coordinate their efforts, at the request of the Government of Haiti, to better contribute to the strengthening of national institutions and the implementation of strategies and programmes to support reconstruction and sustainable development;

14. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2017 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

15. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

16. *Requests* the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, other major stakeholders and civil society organizations, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

17. *Also requests* the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2017 session.

49th plenary meeting
27 July 2016